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Cyprus*

Addendum

Updated information from Cyprus

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* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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Introduction

1. Under the Harmonized guidelines on reporting to the international human rights bodies (HRI/MC/2006/3), States are invited to keep their common core documents current and to update the common core document whenever they submit a treaty-specific document. Updates may be submitted in the form of an addendum to the existing common core document or a new revised version, depending on the extent of the changes which need to be incorporated.

2. The information that follows is transmitted by Cyprus as an updated addendum to its common core document (HRI/CORE/CYP/2014, Distr. Date: 3 February 2015), submitted on 30 June 2014:

(a) Paragraph 24, final sentence ("By January 2014…"), replace the existing text with:

"By July 2015 the number of the enclaved had dwindled to a mere 428, mostly elderly, Greek (335) and Maronite (93) Cypriots."

(b) Paragraph 41, replace the figure 4% in line three, with the figure "3.5%".

(c) Paragraph 42, replace the existing text with:

"42. Given the negative developments in the economy, a significant negative economic growth was observed in 2013 and 2014 of the magnitude of 5.4% and 2.3%, respectively. However, it should be noted that various Organisations and rating agencies had predicted a much deeper recession during those years. Given the significant deceleration of the economy, unemployment rose steeply, reaching around 16% in 2014, a rate considerably high for Cyprus."

(d) Paragraph 43, replace the existing text with:

"The per capita GDP at purchasing power for 2014 stands at 85% of the European Union average (28 countries at the time)."

(e) Paragraph 96, final sentence, replace, the existing text with:

"The Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights was set up in 1991, as the independent authority responsible to deal with individual complaints concerning maladministration, misbehavior and human rights violations by state authorities or officers. The basic law has since been amended six times, with each amendment either enhancing the Institution's powers or expanding its mandate. With the amendment of 2011, the institution was renamed to Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights Protection and it was provided with broad functions of protecting, promoting and guaranteeing human rights as National Institution for Human Rights.

In addition to the above, further discrete legislations have expanded the role and mandate of the Office. In particular, following EU Directives (2000/78/EC and 2000/43/EC) which were transposed by Law in 2004, the Office was assigned to act as Equality Authority and Anti-discrimination Body. Furthermore, after the ratification of the Optional Protocol of the UN Convention against Torture in March 2009, the Office was established as the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture. Finally, with a Council of Ministers' decision of 2012, the Office was appointed as Independent Authority for the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in accordance with article 33(2) of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

It follows that, while the initial competence of the Office to investigate individuals complaints, have been invigorated and enriched. The consecutive expansion of the Office's mandate has turned it into an Institution with wide, complex and specialized responsibilities, which require multiple and multileveled action. In particular, for the fulfilment of their role, the Ombudsman Institution and the Independent Authorities, working under its umbrella, undertake, on a constant and regular basis, activities of preventive, mediatory, repressive and educational character, alongside with initiatives for co-operation both with the administration and the civil society."

(f) Paragraph 102 replace the existing text, with:

"The Office of the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) and Human Rights was set up in 1991 by virtue of Law no. 3(I)/1991 (the Law on the Commissioner for Administration), as the independent authority responsible to deal with individual complaints concerning maladministration, misbehavior and human rights violations by state authorities or officers. The basic law has since been amended six times: in 1994 (Law no. 98(I)/1994), 1995 (Law no. 101(I)/1995), 2000 (Law no. 1(I)/2000), 2004 (Law no. 36(I)/2004), 2011 (Law no. 158(I)/2011) and 2014 (Law no. 45(I)/2014). Each amendment either enhanced the Institution's powers or expanded its mandate. With the amendment of 2011, the institution was renamed to Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights Protection and it was provided with broad functions of protecting, promoting and guaranteeing human rights as National Institution for Human Rights.

Accordingly, the Office constitutes the most prevalent form of extra-judicial control of the administration, responsible for the observance of the principle of good administrative behavior and fundamental human rights."

(g) The final sentence of Paragraph 107 ("The institution is in the process of applying to the Office of the UNHCR for accreditation in 2014") to be deleted.

(h) At the end of Paragraph 108, add the following text:

"In practice, in addition to the examination of individual complaints which may refer to human rights violations, the Institution may decide to exercise its broad powers as NHRI when, from its day-to-day experience, ascertains problematic areas of human rights protection or issues that have to be highlighted and given more attention. In some cases, the Institution becomes aware of such situations through its communication and consultations with NGO's or other stakeholders. Furthermore, the Institution is called by the House of Representatives, on an ad hoc basis, to express its opinion either on proposed legislation which is related to human rights, or on other relevant matters discussed by the Parliament.

Indicative fields of intervention so far include: Violence against women (domestic, sexual, stalking, FGM etc); Prostitution; Sexism in the public sphere; Human trafficking; Statelessness; Migrant domestic workers; Migrants with long-term residence; Suicide incidents in prisons; Fighting AIDS prejudices."

(i) Paragraph 110, replace the existing text with:

"In July 2015, the Office submitted to the UN ICC (International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights) Subcommittee on Accreditation (SCA), an application for accreditation as National Human Rights Institution under the Paris Principles.

The SCA considered the application during its session from 16 to 20 November 2015 and recommended that the Office be accredited with B Status. Following a deadline of 28 days, during which the Commissioner may challenge these

recommendations, the SCA's recommendation will be sent to the members of the ICC Bureau for approval and final decision."

(j) At the end of Paragraph 134, add the following text:

"Furthermore, the Anti-Discrimination Body undertakes a broad range of activities, related to combating hate crime, hate speech and xenophobia. At the same time, it works thoroughly for the protection and promotion of the rights of the LGBTQ community, as well as of other vulnerable groups, such as the Roma community and undocumented migrants, as well as unaccompanied minors.

In accordance with the Constitution of Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots constitute one of the two communities of the Republic of Cyprus. However, the protection provided by the Anti-Discrimination Body extends to members of the Turkish Cypriot community, members of the three recognized, by the Republic's Constitution, religious groups (Armenians, Maronites and Latins), as it does to any other Cypriot citizen, in cases where any violations of their protected rights under the Body's competence occur."

(k) Add the following text as a new Paragraph (Paragraph 147) within the final Chapter V (Latest developments in Cyprus question):

"Since May 2015, after the cessation of Turkey's violations in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the elections in the T/C community, a new round of negotiations have started between the leaders of the two Communities, President Nikos Anastasiades and Mr. Mustafa Akinci. Up-to now the leaders have met 19 times and 3 meetings are scheduled for January 2016. The negotiators continue to meet on an almost daily basis."